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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/760,511	Applicant(s) YANG, QIAN	
	Examiner Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.	Art Unit 2129	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 22, 23 and 26-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 22-23, and 26-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. §101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

the invention as disclosed in claims 1-19, 22-23, and 26-43 is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

2. None of the claims is limited to practical applications in the technological arts.

Examiner finds that *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 31 USPQ2d 1754 (Fed. Cir. 1994) controls the 35 U.S.C. §101 issues on that point for reasons made clear by the Federal Circuit in *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.*, 50 USPQ2d 1447 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Specifically, the Federal Circuit held that the act of:

...[T]aking several abstract ideas and manipulating them together adds nothing to the basic equation. *AT&T v. Excel* at 1453 quoting *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Examiner finds that Applicant's "consultation request" references in claims 1-19, and 42 and Applicant's "train request" references in claims 22-23 and 43 are just such abstract ideas.

3. Examiner bases his position upon guidance provided by the Federal Circuit in *In re Warmerdam*, as interpreted by *AT&T v. Excel*. This set of precedents is within the

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same line of cases as the *Alappat-State Street Bank* decisions and is in complete agreement with those decisions. *Warmerdam* is consistent with *State Street*'s holding that:

Today we hold that *the transformation of data, representing discrete dollar amounts, by a machine through a series of mathematical calculations into a final share price*, constitutes a practical application of a mathematical algorithm, formula, or calculation because it produces 'a useful, concrete and tangible result' -- *a final share price momentarily fixed for recording purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades*. (emphasis added) *State Street Bank* at 1601.

4. True enough, that case later eliminated the "business method exception" in order to show that business methods were not per se nonstatutory, but the court clearly *did not* go so far as to make business methods *per se* statutory. A plain reading of the excerpt above shows that the Court was *very specific* in its definition of the new *practical application*. It would have been much easier for the court to say that "business methods were per se statutory" than it was to define the practical application in the case as "...the transformation of data, representing discrete dollar amounts, by a machine through a series of mathematical calculations into a final share price..."

5. The court was being very specific.

6. Additionally, the court was also careful to specify that the "useful, concrete and tangible result" it found was "a final share price momentarily fixed for recording purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades." (i.e. the trading activity is the further practical use of the real world

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monetary data beyond the transformation in the computer – i.e., “post-processing activity”).)

7. Applicant cites no such specific results to define a useful, concrete and tangible result. Neither does Applicant specify the associated practical application with the kind of specificity the Federal Circuit used.

8. Furthermore, in the case *In re Warmerdam*, the Federal Circuit held that:

...[T]he dispositive issue for assessing compliance with Section 101 in this case is whether the claim is for a process that goes beyond simply manipulating ‘abstract ideas’ or ‘natural phenomena’ ... As the Supreme Court has made clear, ‘[a]n idea of itself is not patentable, ... taking several abstract ideas and manipulating them together adds nothing to the basic equation.’ *In re Warmerdam* 31 USPQ2d at 1759 (emphasis added).

9. Since the Federal Circuit held in *Warmerdam* that this is the “dispositive issue” when it judged the usefulness, concreteness, and tangibility of the claim limitations in that case, Examiner in the present case views this holding as the dispositive issue for determining whether a claim is “useful, concrete, and tangible” in similar cases. Accordingly, the Examiner finds that Applicant manipulated a set of abstract “consultation requests” and “train requests” to solve purely algorithmic problems in the abstract (i.e., what *kind* of “requests” are used? Algebraic word problems? Boolean logic problems? Fuzzy logic algorithms? Probabilistic word problems? Philosophical ideas? Even vague expressions, about which even reasonable persons could differ as to their meaning? Combinations thereof?) Clearly, a claim for manipulation of “consultation requests” and “train requests” is provably even more abstract (and thereby less limited in practical application) than pure “mathematical algorithms” which the Supreme Court has held are per se nonstatutory – in fact, it *includes* the expression of nonstatutory mathematical algorithms.

10. Since the claims are not limited to exclude such abstractions, the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim limitations includes such abstractions. Therefore, the claims are impermissibly abstract under 35 U.S.C. §101 doctrine.

11. Since *Warmerdam* is within the *Alappat-State Street Bank* line of cases, it takes the same view of “useful, concrete, and tangible” the Federal Circuit applied in *State Street Bank*. Therefore, under *State Street Bank*, this could not be a “useful, concrete and tangible result”. There is only manipulation of abstract ideas.

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12. The Federal Circuit validated the use of *Warmerdam* in its more recent *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.* decision. The Court reminded us that:

Finally, the decision in *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 31 USPQ2d 1754 (Fed. Cir. 1994) is not to the contrary. *** The court found that the claimed process did nothing more than manipulate basic mathematical constructs and concluded that 'taking several abstract ideas and manipulating them together adds nothing to the basic equation'; hence, the court held that the claims were properly rejected under §101 ... Whether one agrees with the court's conclusion on the facts, the holding of the case is a straightforward application of the basic principle that mere laws of nature, natural phenomena, and abstract ideas are not within the categories of inventions or discoveries that may be patented under §101. (emphasis added) *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.*, 50 USPQ2d 1447, 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

13. Remember that in *In re Warmerdam*, the Court said that this was the dispositive issue to be considered. In the *AT&T* decision cited above, the Court reaffirms that this is the issue for assessing the "useful, concrete, and tangible" nature of a set of claims under §101 doctrine. Accordingly, Examiner views the *Warmerdam* holding as the dispositive issue in this analogous case.

14. The fact that the invention is merely the manipulation of *abstract ideas* is clear. The data referred to by Applicant's phrases "consultation request" and "training request" are simply abstract constructs that do not limit the claims to the transformation of real world data (such as monetary data or heart rhythm data) by some disclosed process. Consequently, the necessary conclusion under *AT&T*, *State Street* and *Warmerdam*, is straightforward and clear. The claims take several abstract ideas (i.e., "consultation requests" and "training requests" in the abstract) and manipulate them together adding nothing to the basic equation. Claims 1-19, 22-23, and 26-43 are, thereby, rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

15. Claims 1-19, 22-23, and 26-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph because current case law (and accordingly, the MPEP) require such a rejection if a §101 rejection is given because when Applicant has not in fact disclosed the practical application for the invention, as a matter of law there is no way Applicant could have disclosed *how* to practice the *undisclosed* practical application. This is how the MPEP puts it:

("The how to use prong of section 112 incorporates as a matter of law the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 that the specification disclose as a matter of fact a practical utility for the invention.... If the application fails as a matter of fact to satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101, then the application also fails as a matter of law to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to use the invention under 35 U.S.C. § 112."; In re Kirk, 376 F.2d 936, 942, 153 USPQ 48, 53 (CCPA 1967) ("Necessarily, compliance with § 112 requires a description of how to use presently useful inventions, **otherwise an applicant would anomalously be required to teach how to use a useless invention.**"). See, MPEP 2107.01(IV), quoting In re Kirk (emphasis added).

Therefore, claims 1-19, 22-23, and 26-43 are rejected on this basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-19, 22-23, and 26-30, 32-39, and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*¹. Specifically,

Claim 1

Claim 1's

a client machine; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Big Networks...Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Claim 1's

receive a consultation request from the client through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send

¹ *Neugents Are on The Loose*, The E-Business Adviser, April/May 2000, at 1.

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notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 1's

forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 1's

forward to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 2

Claim 2's

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2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the consultation request comprises the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 3

Claim 3's

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the Neugent is operable to perform the predictive analysis of the data comprised by the consultation request.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 4

Claim 4's

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4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the consultation request comprises identification of a source of the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 5

Claim 5's

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the Neugent is operable to perform the predictive analysis of input data obtained from the source identified in the consultation request.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 6

Claim 6's

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the service broker operable to: receive a training request from the client machine, the training request comprising training data and forward the training

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request comprising the training data to the Neugent to invoke training of the Neugent with the training data.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 8

Claim 8's

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the service broker is operable to forward to the client machine a training result object returned by the Neugent after training of the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 9

Claim 9's

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the Neugent is operable to: group training data patterns into clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar data patterns and predict a

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probability of membership of an input pattern to a selected group, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 10

Claim 10's

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the Neugent is operable to: group training non-numeric patterns into clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar non-numeric patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 10's

predict a probability of membership of an input non-numeric pattern to a selected group, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input non-numeric pattern.

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is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 11

Claim 11's

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the Neugent is operable to: form a cluster model by grouping training data patterns into a plurality of clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar data patterns and determining for each cluster probabilities of transition from the cluster to each of the other clusters; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 11's

predict a probability of an event occurring by applying an input pattern to the cluster model, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

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Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 12

Claim 12's

form an input-output model associated with a set of training data patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 12's

predict an output value by applying the model to an input pattern, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 13

Claim 13's

form rules associated with corresponding relationships in a set of training data patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 13's

predict an outcome by applying the rules to an input pattern, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 14

Claim 14's

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the Neugent comprises a functional-link net.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 15

Claim 15's

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the service broker is comprises a remote server.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 17

Claim 17's

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the Neugent is server-side.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 18

Claim 18's

receiving a consultation request from the remote client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

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Claim 18's

forwarding the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 18's

forwarding to the remote client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 19

Claim 19's

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a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 19's

receive a consultation request from the remote client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 19's

forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

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"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 19's

forward to the remote client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 22

Claim 22's

receiving a train request from the remote client machine through a computer network, the train request associated with training data for training the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those

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patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 22's

forwarding the train request to the Neugent to invoke training of the Neugent, training of the Neugent comprising causing the Neugent to perform a data analysis of the training data; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 22's

forwarding to the remote client machine through the computer network a training result object returned by the Neugent, the training result object comprising a data classification mechanism operable to facilitate performance of a predictive analysis by the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 23

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Claim 23's

a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 23's

receive a train request from the remote client machine through a computer network the train request associated with training data for training the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 23's

forward the train request to the Neugent to invoke training of the Neugent, training of the Neugent comprising causing the Neugent to perform a data analysis of the training data; and

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is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 23's

forward to the remote client machine through the computer network a training result object returned by the Neugent, the training result object comprising a data classification mechanism operable to facilitate performance of a predictive analysis by the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 26

Claim 26's

26. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the consultation request comprises the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based

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on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 27

Claim 27's

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the Neugent is operable to perform the predictive analysis of the data comprised by the consultation request.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 28

Claim 28's

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the consultation request comprises identification of a source of the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 29

Claim 29's

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the Neugent is operable to perform the predictive analysis of input data obtained from the source identified in the consultation request.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 30

Claim 30's

receiving a training request from the remote client machine, the training request comprising training data; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 30's

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forwarding the training request comprising the training data to the Neugent to invoke training of the Neugent with the training data.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 32

Claim 32's

32. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising forwarding to the remote client machine a training result object returned by the Neugent after training of the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 33

Claim 33's

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grouping, at the Neugent training data patterns into clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar data patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 33's

predicting, at the Neugent, a probability of membership of an input pattern to a selected group, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 34

Claim 34's

grouping, at the Neugent, training non-numeric patterns into clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar non-numeric patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

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Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 34's

predicting, at the Neugent, a probability of membership of an input non-numeric pattern to a selected group, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input non-numeric pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 35

Claim 35's

forming, at the Neugent, a cluster model by grouping training data patterns into a plurality of clusters, each cluster corresponding to a group of similar data patterns and determining for each cluster probabilities of transition from the cluster to each of the other clusters; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those

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patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 35's

predicting, at the Neugent, a probability of an event occurring by applying an input pattern to the cluster model, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 36

Claim 36's

forming, at the Neugent, an input-output model associated with a set of training data patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 36's

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predicting, at the Neugent, an output value by applying the model to an input pattern, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 37

Claim 37's

forming, at the Neugent, rules associated with corresponding relationships in a set of training data patterns; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 37's

predicting, at the Neugent, an outcome by applying the rules to an input pattern, the data associated with the consultation request comprising the input pattern.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 38

Claim 38's

38. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the Neugent comprises a functional-link net.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Network agents notify managers of the status of the network and provide information to support management decision-making. The next step on this path is the neural network agent. This new technology not only informs management of the status of the network, but also learns its normal status and makes proactive predictions about its future.

Claim 38's

Claim 39

Claim 39's

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39. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the method is performed at a remote Server.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 41

Claim 41's

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the Neugent is server-side.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 42

Claim 42's

receive a consultation request from the remote client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

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is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 42's

forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data," said Charles B. Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates.

Claim 42's

forward to the remote client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send

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notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Claim 43

Claim 43's

receive a train request from the remote client machine through a computer network the train request associated with training data for training the Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the remote client machine;

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

Claim 43's

forward the train request to the Neugent to invoke training of the Neugent, training of the Neugent comprising causing the Neugent to perform a data analysis of the training data; and

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

Neugents learn a network's normal range by a process called pattern recognition. They then create mathematic profiles of those patterns based on historical data. Once they've studied enough data, they can automatically generate forecasts of future events.

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Claim 43's

forward to the remote client machine through the computer network a training result object returned by the Neugent, the training result object comprising a data classification mechanism operable to facilitate performance of a predictive analysis by the Neugent.

is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 1, where it recites:

One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents -- small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 06/09/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically:

Argument 1

At the outset, it does not appear that the Examiner responded to Applicants' arguments presented in the previous Response (other than to add references to "training requests" throughout the Examiner's argument). Instead, the Examiner simply reiterated substantially verbatim the Examiner's arguments from the previous Office Action. This is improper. "Where the applicant traverses any rejection, the examiner should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it." M.P.E.P. §707.07 (f) (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that simply repeating arguments verbatim from the previous Office Action does not answer the substance of Applicants' arguments. Applicants recognize that the Examiner is undoubtedly responsible for the examination of a large number of applications, placing inordinate constraints on the Examiner's time; however, Applicants cannot be penalized for this fact and are still entitled to a full and complete examination of this Application in compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, rules, and case law. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner address each of Applicants' arguments in the next Office Action if the Examiner does not change the rejection or, more appropriately, issue a Notice of Allowance.

The rejection was proper.

The claims were under RCE and were not under a non-final or final rejection. Further, the core of Applicant's arguments were addressed in the rejection. The rejections made were non-final and Applicant had opportunity to comment about the non-final rejections. In this action, Examiner makes the rejections final and addresses Applicant's arguments.

Argument 2

Applicants' claims are not merely manipulations of abstract ideas. Instead, each of Applicants' claims clearly recites a useful, concrete, and tangible result, which is all the law requires for a claim to be directed to statutory subject matter, and is therefore directed to patentable subject matter.'

This is a conclusion without evidence or legal analysis. Examiner disagrees with Applicant's assertion. Examiner explained his reasons for the rejections and this conclusory statement is insufficient to shift Applicant's burden on this point. Therefore, the rejections STAND.

Argument 3

Thus, "forward[ing] to the client through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent" is one practical application of independent Claim 1, the useful, concrete, and tangible result being the result object returned by the Neugent that is forwarded to the client through the computer network and that comprises a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent.

Applicant argues that forwarding the "result object" is a "useful, concrete and tangible result." Examiner disagrees.

The computer software object Applicant calls a "result object" is not claimed to represent anything in the real world. Further, it is not required to cause anything to occur in the real world. Applicant believes that the forwarding of the object in a network is sufficient, but single computers can have networks within them (e.g., a "Beowulf Cluster".) Applicant's claims for simply forwarding an abstract result is insufficient to make the claims statutory. Therefore, the rejections STAND.

Argument 4

Additionally, Applicants' Specification provides, for example, a discussion of certain deficiencies of some systems:

Data mining is the analysis of large quantities of data in order to extract useful information from the data, such as for making predictions over new data (also called predictive analysis). A number of data mining products are available. However, current commercial products which allow data mining of the wealth of information on the Web require the client application to maintain a predictive model, although a service broker may collect or store raw data and forward it to the client upon demand. Since the client must maintain the predictive model, the resources of the client machine may be overwhelmed when the application is executed.

Specification, Page 2, Line 2 through Page 3, Line 6.

Additionally, with respect to certain embodiments of Applicants' invention, the Specification provides the following:

- The consultation request, according to one embodiment, includes data for consulting Neugent 13. Specification, Page 9, Lines 8-9.
- According to another embodiment, the consultation request includes identification of a source of data for consulting a Neugent 13. Specification, Page 9, Lines 12-14.
- According to another embodiment, the service broker 15 is a remote server. The consultation request from the client 11 to the remote server

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may include an Extensible Mark-up Language document. Specification, Page 9, Lines 17-20.

- Neugents technologies include assorted methodologies for recognizing patterns in data and for using those patterns to make predictions on new data. New data is analyzed to determine the pattern into which it falls, thereby providing a prediction of future behavior based on the behavior that has characterized the pattern in the past. Specification, Page 11, Lines 4-10.

- Consult is a process of providing new data to a Neugent (also referred to as data for consulting the Neugent) so that the Neugent uses its model, as developed during training, to provide a prediction from the new data. Specification, Page 14, Lines 17-20.

The Specification also identifies particular advantages that are realized by certain embodiments of Applicants' invention:

Accordingly, the methodologies described in this disclosure place no burden on the client to maintain a predictive model. The complexity of client/server interfaces may be reduced by simplifying protocols and by hiding issues (for example, making them transparent to the user) of platform technology mismatches.

Specification, Page 15, Lines 2-7. Thus, Applicants' specification asserts at least one practical application of certain embodiments of Applicants' invention and identifies the advancement of the technical arts.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to at least the following portions of Applicants' Specification: Page 2, Line 2 through Page 3, Line 6; Page 9, Line 21 through Page 11, Line 10; Page 14, Lines 9-16; and Page 16, Lines 1-14. Applicants' specification asserts at least one practical application of certain embodiments of Applicants' invention and identifies the advancement of the technical arts.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 22 (and its dependent claims) recites patentable subject matter. For at least certain analogous reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 23 and 43 (and their dependent claims) recites patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Applicant's claims are not in means-plus-function format, so the limitations of the Specification cannot be "read into" the claims. Therefore, the rejections STAND.

Argument 5

Thus, "forwarding to the remote client machine through the computer network a training result object returned by the Neugent, the training result object comprising a data classification mechanism operable to facilitate performance of a predictive analysis by the Neugent," is one practical application of independent Claim 22, the useful, concrete, and tangible result being the training result object returned by the Neugent that is forwarded to the remote client machine through the computer network and that comprises a data classification mechanism operable to facilitate performance of a predictive analysis by the Neugent.

Again, Applicant argues that forwarding the "result object" is a "useful, concrete and tangible result." Examiner disagrees.

The computer software object Applicant calls a "result object" is not claimed to represent anything in the real world. Further, it is not required to cause anything to occur in the real world. Applicant believes that the forwarding of the object in a network is sufficient, but single computers can have networks within them (e.g., a "Beowulf Cluster".) Applicant's claims for simply forwarding an abstract result is insufficient to make the claims statutory. Therefore, the rejections STAND.

Argument 6

The Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest various limitations recited in Applicants' Claim 1. At a minimum, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a **service broker** that is operable to: (1) receive a consultation request from the client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the client machine; (2) forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request; and (3) forward to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent, as recited in Claim 1 as amended.

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For example, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a service broker that is operable to "receive a consultation request from the client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the client machine," as recited in Claim 1 as amended. The Examiner argues that the following statement from the Neugents Article discloses these limitations: One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents - small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems. (See Office Action, Page 9) Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, this statement from the Neugents Article describes old agent systems and is unrelated to neugents. Thus, it necessarily fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "receiv[ing] a consultation request from the client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the client machine," as recited in Claim 1. Second, the cited portion of the Neugents Article clearly does not disclose, teach, or suggest any request from these network agents that is "associated with data for consulting a ~Neugent." Third, the neugents disclosed in the Neugents Article are apparently associated with the network devices and communicate to a centralized network manager. To the extent that these network devices are examples of the client machine recited in Claim 1, the neugents disclosed in the Neugents Article are not distinct from the network devices. Thus, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "the Neugent being distinct from the client machine," as recited in Claim 1 as amended.

Applicant's "service broker" is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8,

where it recites:

"Big Networks...Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Argument 7

As another example, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a service broker that is operable to "forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation

request," as recited in Claim 1. The Examiner argues that the following statement from the Neugents Article discloses these limitations: Neugents enable companies to warehouse huge, complex data sets, intelligently process information and generate accurate predictions based on that data. (See Office Action, Page 9) Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, the cited portion of the Neugents Article merely discloses what neugents are. Second, nowhere does this cited portion disclose, teach, or suggest a service broker (i.e., the service broker that received the consultation request from the client machine through the computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent) that is operable to "forward the consultation request to the Neugent to invoke a consultation of the Neugent, the Neugent operable to perform a predictive analysis with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent that is associated with the consultation request," as recited in Claim 1. There simply is no such service broker described in the Neugents Article.

As another example, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a service broker that is operable to "forward to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent," as recited in Claim 1. The Examiner argues that the following statement from the Neugents Article discloses these limitations: One technique for handling this type of management is the use of network agents - small programs that reside at network devices, send notifications to a management console and alert managers of network problems. (See Office Action, Page 9-10) Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicant's "service broker" is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Big Networks... Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Argument 8

First, as discussed above, this statement from the Neugents Article describes old agent systems and is unrelated to neugents. Thus, it necessarily fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "forward[ing] to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the

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Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent," as recited in Claim 1. Second, the neugents disclosed in the Neugents Article are apparently associated with the network devices and communicate to a centralized network manager.

Applicant's "client machine" is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Big Networks...Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Argument 9

To the extent that these network devices are examples of the client machine recited in Claim 1, the neugents disclosed in the Neugents Article are not distinct from the network devices. The neugents of the Neugents Article may perform some processing and then send notifications to the network manager. Thus, the Neugents Article fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "forward[ing] to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant's "client machine" is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Big Networks...Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Argument 10

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Last, Applicants note that the Examiner's citation is the exact same citation the Examiner argued allegedly discloses a service broker that is operable to "receive a consultation request from the client machine through a computer network, the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being distinct from the client machine," as recited in Claim 1 as amended. Certainly, this cited portion does not disclose, teach, or suggest any service broker that both "receive[s] a consultation request from the client machine through a computer network., the consultation request associated with data for consulting a Neugent, the Neugent being; distinct from the client machine" and "forward[s] to the client machine through the computer network a result object returned by the Neugent, the result object comprising a prediction determined by the Neugent with respect to the data for consulting the Neugent," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant's "service broker" is anticipated by *Neugents Are on The Loose*, pg. 8, where it recites:

"Big Networks...Big Problems

AGF Brazil -- a part of AGF International, an insurance company that conducts business in 34 countries -- uses Unicenter TNG to manage its 800 node network throughout Brazil. The network includes Unix servers, desktops running Windows NT and 50 LANs."

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Wilbert L. Starks, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3691.

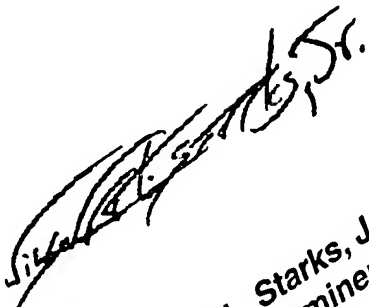
Alternatively, inquiries may be directed to the following:

S. P. E. David Vincent (571) 272-3080

Official (FAX) (571) 273-8300

WLS

20 August 2006



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
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